

Council Members:

Greetings! Hope you had an enjoyable holiday season and that 2006 has dawned well for you all.

Enclosed you will find the tentative agenda for the Tuesday, Jan. 31, meeting, as well as some background materials for you to review in advance of the meeting.

The materials enclosed include a summary of the study that was agreed upon by the subcommittee at a meeting in early January. In addition, the packet includes profiles for some of the organizations that will be appearing before the council in connection with the planned study of transition and re-entry services for inmates both before and after they leave prison.

The Family Tree Center offers parenting related services to inmates at the Montana Women's Prison and wants to extend those services to inmates at the Montana State Prison. The Parenting Place envisions providing a variety of family-related services to offenders in prerelease centers. Connections is a Bozeman organization that attempts to help inmates as they prepare for release from prison and after they reach the community.

The goal of these organizations is the same – to give offenders the best possible opportunity to succeed once out from behind bars. I hope this information and the presentations that representatives of these organizations offer to the council will help in the effort to analyze what programs and services are available now and what more is needed.

A reminder that the council meeting starts at 10 a.m. in the main administration building at the prison. Please arrive about 9:30 a.m. to clear security. The subcommittee meets at 8 a.m. Also, if you have signed up for a tour of the prison the day before (Monday, Jan. 30), the tour starts at 1 p.m. Please arrive about 12:30 so the tour can start on time.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 444-0409 or banez@mt.gov.

See you in Deer Lodge.

Bob Anez